India, a special enumeration procedure for areas having substantial presence of foreign nationals was followed in terms of which the District collectors of four identified Districts, viz. Purnea, Sahebganj, Katihar and Araria were, on the basis of verification done through the police/intelligence agencies or other authorities, not satisfied about 14887 persons being citizens of India and hence their names were not included in the draft electoral rolls.

Inquiry into Cartel of Automobile Tyre Manufacturers

451. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked MRTPC to inquire into the suspected cartel of automobile tyre manufacturers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Department of Company Affairs has made a reference under section 10(a) (ii) of the MRTP Act, 1969 to the MRTP Commission relating to collusive price behaviour by 4 major manufacturers of automobile tyres and tubes, viz MRF Ltd., Modi Rubber Ltd., Dunlop India Ltd., Ceat Tyres of India Ltd., and Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association. The Department of Company Affairs has further requested the MRTP Commission to serve notice of enquiry on such additional parties under the relevant MRTP Commission Regulations, as deemed necessary.

Cases before the single Bench

452. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi, dated 27th January, 1993, captioned "2 lakh cases before a single Bench"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government is aware about the large pendency of cases in the Allahabad High Court. The various recommendations made by the Arrears Committee, which examined the problem of arrears in the Courts, covering various aspects have been commended to all concerned State Governments/High Courts including the Allahabad High Court for necessary follow-up action. As per the decision taken in the law Ministers Conference held in October, 1992 at Bangalore, three working groups of the State law Ministers have been constituted to suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Arrears Committee so as to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the Courts.

Identification of foreign nationals

453. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons identified as foreign nationals asked for after intensive checking District-wise; and

(b) what steps are being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND

COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to bring Judges within the purview of the Prevention of Corruption Act

454. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court within the purview of Prevention of corruption Act by deleting Art. 217(b) of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b); No, Sir. The Government is of the view that in order to maintain the independence of judiciary, the existing provisions in the Constitution for the removal of a Judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court are adequate.

Enactment of law making exercise of franchise compulsory

455. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to enact a law to make exercise of franchise compulsory on the part of registered voters in the elections to Parliament and State Legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Proposal to Formulate Policy to Expedite Litigations

456. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy with a view to expedite cases relating to land-disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) and (b) With a view to expediting the disposal of land disputes relating to land ceiling and such other revenue and land reforms matters, the Government of India, as a part of land reforms policy, has been from time to time advising at various for a e.g. Conferences of Revenue Ministers and Chief Ministers, to the State Governments to set up Land Tribunals under the provisions of Article 323-B of the Constitution or create Special Courts/Bench in High Court in consultation with the concerned High Court. Accordingly, the States of Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have enacted legislation for setting up Land Tribunals under Article 323-B of the Constitution.

(c) Question does not arise.

Judges in the Gujarat High Court employees

457. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Gujarat High Court at present;

(b) what is the number of judges in the High Court of Gujarat at present; and